

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An optical connector comprising:

a housing having an opening formed therein for coupling another optical connector; and
a blocking component disposed and extending within the opening for blocking an optical axis,

wherein the blocking component has a shutter plate blocking or shading the optical axis and being pivotably supported by the housing with a pivot shaft and an elastic portion separated from the shutter plate and mounted on the housing for normally biasing the shutter plate to a closed position, the shutter plate including an opening portion formed therethrough in which the elastic portion is disposed, wherein the elastic portion is disposed at a side of the pivot shaft and wherein an opposite side of the elastic portion for applying a force to the shutter plate is disposed in the position blocking the optical axis, the elastic portion having one end formed integral with an edge of the opening portion and another end formed to be a support portion fitted to an upper or bottom face of the housing, the shutter plate pivoting between the closed position and an opened position to which the shutter plate is forced to move by another optical connector when the other optical connector is inserted into the opening of the housing.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 3. (Original) The optical connector according to Claim 1, wherein the optical connector connects a plurality of optical cables.

Claim 4. (Original) The optical connector according to Claim 1, wherein the other optical connection in an optical connector including a plug.

Claim 5. (Original) The optical connector according to Claim 1, wherein the shutter plate and the elastic portion are formed in an integrated structure.

Claim 6. (Original) The optical connector according to Claim 1, wherein the shutter plate and the elastic portion comprise an identical metal.

Claim 7. (Original) The optical connector according to Claim 1, wherein the shutter plate comprises a resin and is integrally molded with the elastic portion.